

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/540,143**
Amendment filed May 30, 2007
Reply to OA dated January 30, 2007

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended to include the feature of Claim 2, Claim 2 is cancelled accordingly. Claim 4 is amended in order to change the dependency from Claim 2 to Claim 1. No new matter is entered. It is believed that this amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action mailed January 30, 2007.

The present invention is an electrical cable having a conductor core and a sheathing layer covering the core. The sheathing layer is made of a synthetic resin material and has an outer surface with a mono-color. The cable has a first mark having a first color and provided on a first part of an outer surface of the sheathing layer, and a second mark having a second color and provided on a second part of the outer surface of the sheathing layer. The second color is different from the first color, and the second part is positioned in an opposite side of the first side in a circumferential direction of the cable, the first and second marks positioned at an end of the cable. The sheathing layer of the cable has a first outer surface and a second outer surface, the first and second outer surfaces each extending in a longitudinal direction of the cable. The first outer surface is positioned oppositely to the second outer surface in a circumferential direction of the cable, and at least one of the first and second outer surfaces is provided with a plurality of the first and second marks that are alternately positioned in the longitudinal direction of the cable, and the first mark is longer than the second mark in the longitudinal direction of the cable.

Claims 1 - 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Masuda et al. (JP Pat. Num 06-190315) in view of Kondo (JP Pat Num 10-031918). Reconsideration and

removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It is alleged in the Office Action that Masuda et al. shows a cable with a sheathing layer having an outer surface with a mono color that has a first mark (M_1) of a first color provided on a first part of the outer surface and a second mark (M_2) of a second color provided on a second part of the outer surface; ink feeders (10_1 and 10_2) are provided on opposite sides of the cable in a lateral direction of the cable, and first and second outer surfaces (left end and right end) extend in a longitudinal direction of the cable; and the first outer surface (left end) is positioned opposite the second outer surface (right end) and each are provided with a plurality of first and second marks (M_1 and M_2) that are alternatively positioned in a longitudinal direction (Fig. 9).

It is further alleged that Kondo shows a first mark (83, left side of cable) that is longer than the second mark (82, right side of cable), that Masuda shows marks at the ends of the cable, and that Masuda has first and second outer surfaces and marks on opposite sides with respect to a circumferential direction.

It is respectfully submitted that Masuda does not show marks at an end of a cable as presently claimed, as Figs. 11 and 12 of Masuda, referred to in the Office Action, are portions of a cable with the ends cut off, as is indicated by the wavy lines.

Also, it is respectfully submitted that none of the cited documents discloses "at least one of the first and second outer surfaces provided with a plurality of the first and second marks that are alternately positioned in the longitudinal direction of the cable" as presently claimed.

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In view of the amendment to Claim 1 and the above remarks, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It is believed that Claims 1 and 4 are patentable over the prior art and are now in condition for allowance. Allowance of Claims 1 and 4 is respectfully requested.

If there are any issues of a minor nature remaining, the Examiner is urged to contact Applicant's attorney, the undersigned, at Area Code (202) 659-2930.

In the event that any fees are due with respect to this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
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